

REMARKS

The attached Notice to File Corrected Application Papers dated February 23, 2004 (the "Notice") has been carefully reviewed and this response, in the form of a Preliminary Amendment, addresses the concerns stated in the Notice.

The Notice states that required item(s) identified must be timely submitted to avoid abandonment. The Notice states that the required items are replacement drawings in compliance with 37 CFR §1.84 and 37 CFR §1.121. The Notice further states that the drawings submitted are not acceptable because more than one figure is present and each figure is not labeled "Fig." with a consecutive Arabic numeral or an Arabic numeral and capital letter in the English alphabet.

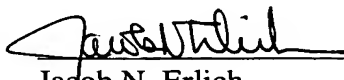
With respect to the comments within the Notice requiring replacement drawings, in particular Figure 6a, the following response is presented. The reference to "Figure 6a" in the specification is an inadvertent error since Figure 6a is not part of this application. The correct reference should be to "Figure 6" as set forth in the drawings. However, in order to fully comply with the Notice, Applicants respond herein with a Preliminary Amendment to the specification that corrects the reference to "Figure 6a" in paragraph 26 on page 6 to "Figure 6", in order to place the application in better condition for examination and allowance. No new matter has been added by way of the Preliminary Amendment and all changes made therein find their basis in the original application as filed.

The following information is presented in the event that a call may be deemed desirable by the Customer Service Center of the Initial Patent Examination Division:

JACOB N. ERLICH (617) 854-4000.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas W. Stone, Applicant

Date: March 31, 2004

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